

# THE HOLIDAY FASHIONS.

What is Shown in the Shops for Christmas Wear.

Nobody saves anything in particular about clothes with Christmas only a week away, but it may be said that things would go decidedly better in a few particulars if more people did care more intelligently. Can any human being say why we are wearing the hideous gowns of sixty years ago? Is any intelligent reason to be assigned for the revival of the 1860 dress and the poke bonnet which belongs with it?

It is of no use to raise the smallest protest against the absurd decree of fashion, for whatever is right in her domain without question, but I do not



TWO 1920 MODELS.

know any stronger argument against the modern habit of spelling women with a big W than a casual glance at woman's clothes.

Let us glance, therefore, and do our duty in two senses. The least objectionable "granny" gown I have seen was prepared for the Patriarchs' dinner which preceded last Monday evening's ball. Its wearer was one of the season's debutantes, who is blonde, blooming and beautifully provided with "boudoir." It was cream-colored bengaline, touched here and there with a touch of gold, and with sleeves and top part of bodice of gold-colored net gathered full. The young woman described so slantly is not more than five feet high, and so she looked very properly babyish with her waist and under her arms. Most women, however, are more than five feet high in these days of gymnasiums, and of short waists let all giraffes beware.

Mrs. Whitney's delicate class, that is, the delicate class which meets at Mrs. W. C. Whitney's, affords opportunity for much interesting dressing. There are, first, the highly correct afternoon gowns in which the student of grace arrives, and there are, second, the exquisite gowns, in which the same students do their posturing and posing. Empire robes answer as well as any for these later, and blue and buttercup yellow are favorite colors. The wife of the ex-secretary and future (?) is not looking particularly well this winter. She has aged to some extent and her hair has whitened, but her debutante daughter is blooming enough for both, and the daughter class is a great institution. One young girl who belongs sets this example to fellow-devotees throughout the country: A bluish purple India silk frock, smart and trailing, absolutely plain except for a gold-colored band to confine it across the bosom and under the arms.

Another wears a very similar dress in cinnamon brown, and a third costume is a cream bengaline edged all about with heavier fur.

Street dresses are the most sensible things, I suppose, to talk about, because they come home to most people. I was standing this morning in a florist's window, waiting for him to tie up a bunch of violets for me, when there came by a piquant, rosy woman in a



A PINK AND GREEN TEA GOWN.

taller dress of a dull blue cloth, trimmed with soft, darkish fur. The frock was made with a plain skirt and a Russian blouse top long enough to answer for a cloak, and to come down, in fact, almost to the knees. The blouse was belted with plain straps of cloth, one passing in front and fastening with a big silver buckle. It had a standing collar of fur and a lot of violets like those I was waiting for thrust into it over the bosom. It had also, to smarten it, a blue felt hat with an ostrich plume worn in the new fashion, rampant, instead of coquettish, as formerly.

A florist's window, or any other, is a good place from which to see the latest show. There is a new sort that is rather novel, and that was made, in the example I noticed recently, of dark green cloth, embellished up and down the front and about the bottom and across the pocket openings with gold. It had a Shakespearean collar of heavy mink fur, and a band of the same ran around the dark velvet skirt that showed below. Do you like the long velvet cape that nearly reaches your feet and that call themselves cloaks from some obscure instinct of propriety? I saw a black one a day or two ago that was rather taking, with its little pointed ends edged with sable and long full folds dripping from the shoulders and edged with triple sable bands.

There is one thing it is as well to remember, and that is, no one wears long

tail to the many dress hobby horses we are now riding. The gown from which a model, whose word goes far, expects results so sensational is a heavy opal-tinted silk, gleaming by fits and starts with evanescent tints of every hue of the rainbow. The pointed bodice has a square neck with a huge square laped collar of white pearl embroidered sets laid back from it and covering the shoulders and good part of the sleeves. Just in front is a puffy dolu of white mink. The sleeves are elbow puffs huge and stately.

Under the bodice edge is gathered the full sweeping skirt, which opens in front over a petticoat of net embroidered like the collar. The train is edged all about with sable fur and the hair is to be worn high and decked with white ostrich pompons. Shall I tell you who is to chaperone, so to speak, this novelty? I had better not, probably.

The Washington season is not fully under way and it won't be a very lively one, but a few gowns have been made or are in process of making in this city for such festivities as are scheduled.

For Miss Brice is a pale shell pink silk, with a tight fitting bodice, cut with a sharply pointed basque in front and the sides of the skirt as well as the train very full. The skirt opens in front over a cream satin petticoat embroidered in silver and the pink silk sleeves are full to the elbow and there tied with silver ribbons.

A graceful little frock for a young girl to be chaperoned by Mrs. Carlisle is a pale turquoise blue crepon, rushed about the skirt, and an empire bodice, with huge sleeves puffed upon the shoulders.

For more general use is a gown of fine black Chantilly lace arranged in three deep full flounces over a skirt of shot silk, showing shades of red and dark blue. The bodice is quaintly picturesque, with its berthe of lace frills and its enormous empire sash of silk finished with a big rosette bow.

Christmas dances will bring out the prettiest and freshest frocks of the winter. One of which I have knowledge is to be of pale-green silk, the skirt curiously festooned with knots of blue ribbon. The mixture of blue and green has presented itself to you before now as one of the oddest French fancies of the season.

I suppose I may say profitably a word or two more about furs. There are new furs that seem to take the tailor girl's fancy. The seal hats are like a big sailor in shape, round and low-crowned and trimmed in front with seal pompons and little sable tails. Then there are black Astrakhan turbans, which are more fashionable than novel or interesting.

Ermine evening cloaks came out bravely. I brushed one in a theater lobby a few evenings ago and turned to look again at the long neglected pure white fur. It was cut like an Henri II. cape, falling in full folds from the shoulders lined with quilted white silk from top to bottom.

As sensible a cloak as I have noticed is a rough fawn-colored camel's hair in which a tall, fresh-complexioned girl was bustling about her Christmas shopping in one of the big stores this morning. It fitted closely to her knees, and was bordered front and bottom with bands of mink fur. Three little capes of mink tails were quaintly set about the shoulders, the deepest scarcely reaching the bosom. Golden brown velvet cuffs finished the sleeves, with mink bands at the elbows.

Much too heavy, unless one is buoyed up mightily by the inner consciousness of a particularly smart appearance, is the newest sealskin cloak with its double-plaited Watteau in the back, and its loose folds making no pretense of fit or economy of material. Its sleeves, too, are tremendous, the long puffs coming nearly to the wrists and ending in cuffs much less pretentious than usual. With it the proper wear is a flat hat with two ostrich feathers rampant and one couchant under the brim.

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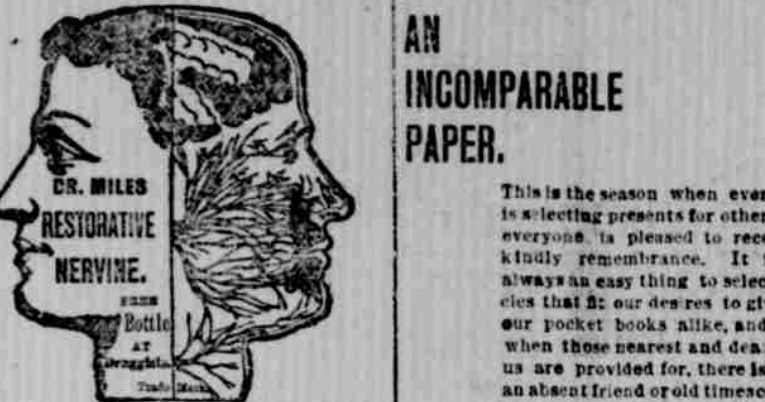
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